February 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to D2. I hope you have all had a relaxing break and are ready for the new school year. It has been lovely to meet so many of you already. Please come and introduce yourselves to me when you see me in class if I haven’t met you. I apologise in advance for forgetting parents names. I can assure you I am much better with the children’s names ☺

Below I have outlined a few relevant parts of our program as we get up and running.

The first few weeks of term involve me getting to know the children in class, establishing routines and expectations. Of course the children are also getting to know all my expectations and habits! With these thoughts in mind we will work on a unit called **“All About Me”(**Health). We will be focusing on who we are and how we work as individuals, as groups and as a class.

**Swimming** is a major part of our day during weeks 2 & 3 as you are well aware of. This week is the second week of swimming and we will be having our Year 3/4 Swimming Carnival on Friday at 9:30. It would be great to see some of you at Wharenui for this ☺

A reminder that you are welcome to come and watch the lessons at Wharenui.

**Art** – Drawing

We will be focusing on our portraits which involves more than just drawing but this is the base for these. Keep your eyes out for these on our walls.

**PE/PA** – Swimming for weeks 2 & 3. We will also be playing some games where we learn how to play appropriately with our peers. We will also be working on our fitness through a range of activities. Gymnastics will take us through to the end of the term.

**Writing** – We will be establishing expectations and what makes a great writer. A lot of this will involve recounting events and experiences. Later in the term we will work on diary writing.

**Reading** – This is based on reading levels of the children. We will be having guided reading sessions which are integrated with our topic as appropriate.

**Maths** – We will be following the numeracy project Monday – Thursday. A major focus is on consolidating our basic facts knowledge. The other strands will be taught on Fridays or as a block unit.

**Being a New Zealander** (Social Studies) – Later in the term we will be studying more about our own country. This will hopefully include a trip outside the classroom.

**Library** – Due to planned alterations on the hall area, our library is out of service at this stage.

Our dance, drama & music is taught by Jo Neal when I have CRT (Classroom Release Time). This happens on a Thursday for a two hour block, four times a term. This is always a favourite with the children!

Due to lack of storage spaces I ask for tissues to be brought in on a roster system over the four terms. Thank you very much to those that have already given theirs (you do not need to bring in another box if I put your name down). Would the following please bring theirs in this term: **Jamie, Cameron, Jack, Harry & Mikayla**.

If you would like to help out in our classroom please let me know. I also would like to find a parent who would be willing to put my reading books away when the box is full. If you can do this please let me know.

The start of the new year is a very busy time settling children into new classes, establishing routines and becoming familiar with expectations. If you have any concerns or questions I would like to hear them directly from you. I am available most times for a quick word, however if you need to discuss an area in detail please make an appointment. If I am not in my classroom before school and you need to see me please ask at the office as I may be catching up on my photocopying or locating resources. I am unavailable on Monday or Tuesday afternoons due to staff meetings.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that I am head of sport for our school. Due to this I am sometimes required to be out of the classroom without the children. During these times there will be a reliever in D2.

I look forward to a great year working with you and your child.

Regards,

Jacinda Watson